

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor : Joseph H. Sassine	
Appln. No. : 10/788,863	Confirmation No.: 7195
Filed : February 27, 2004	Group Art Unit: 2627
Title : HEAD SUSPENSION ASSEMBLY HAVING A HIGH DAMPING HIGH STIFFNESS COMPONENT	Examiner: Julie Anne Watko
Docket No. : I69.12-0600-STL11400.00	

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner For Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

FILED VIA EFS-WEB

February 17, 2010

SUMMARY

This Interview Summary concerns a telephone interview held February 17, 2010, following a final Office Action dated January 27, 2010. The participants were Examiner Julie Ann Watko and Applicants' representative Nathaniel P. Longley, Reg. No. 62,668, of Kinney & Lange, P.A. In the Interview:

- (A) No exhibits were shown and no demonstrations were conducted.
- (B) The subject matter of independent claims 1 and 16 was discussed.
- (C) Prior art of record was discussed.
- (D) The subject of claim amendments was discussed but no agreement was reached as to claim language.
- (E) The following issues were discussed:
 - Assertions in the Office Action notwithstanding, Applicants' position is that prior art disclosures related to damping capacity do not overlap with the claimed range. (See, e.g., Amendment filed December 3, 2009 at page 7, lines 15–17 (“Sutton’s effective $\tan(\delta)$ range of about 0.10 or less thus corresponds to damping capacity ζ of about 0.016 or less, and this neither overlies nor overlaps a range of damping capacity

greater than about 0.02, as claimed by Applicants.”); compare to Office Action mailed January 27, 2010 at page 3, lines 16–18 (“said materials having a damping capacity greater than approximately 0.02 (*insofar as 0.015 is approximately 0.02*; see, e.g., Fig. 19, which shows $\tan(\delta)=0.10$ *corresponding to 0.016, which is greater than 0.015*)”) (emphasis added).)

- Assertions in the Office Action notwithstanding, Applicants’ position is that differences between prior art and the claimed invention are increased in the recited range of vibration mode frequencies. (See, e.g., Amendment filed December 3, 2009 at page 7, lines 23–26 (“in the claimed frequency range of about 6,010 hertz to about 12,650 hertz (that is, \log_{10} frequency between about 3.78 and about 4.10), Sutton’s FIG. 19 teaches effective $\tan(\delta)$ of about 0.06 or less (that is, damping capacity ζ of about 0.0095 or less)”)).

(F) The following additional issues were discussed:

- Assertions in the Office Action notwithstanding, Applicants’ position is that the prior art provides evidence of unpredictability. (See, e.g., Amendment filed December 3, 2009 at page 9, lines 6–10 (“the applicability of such methods to three point bending data for a composite system is less obvious.”) (citing Sutton, col. 21, lines 18–25; col. 23, lines 8–11) (“it is difficult to rigorously define an exact time-temperature superposition for $\tan(\delta)$ ”) (citing Sutton, col. 23, lines 29–30).)
- Assertions in the Office Action notwithstanding, Applicants’ position is that the record provides evidence of unpredictability. (See, e.g., Amendment filed December 3, 2009 at page 9, lines 15–18 (“[Applicant’s] FE analysis is a numerical technique for notoriously unpredictable problems like weather prediction, [and] complex elasticity and structural analysis problems, as described herein, which are subject to numerical instabilities, complicated domain structures, and other unpredictable effects.”) (citing WIKIPEDIA, Finite Element method, at http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Finite_element_method)).

(G) The general outcome of the Interview was that Applicants would consider filing a Notice of Appeal.

(H) The interview was not conducted via electronic mail.

Applicants thank Examiner Watko for her time and consideration in conducting the interview.

Respectfully submitted,

KINNEY & LANGE, P.A.

Date: February 17, 2010

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